
CHURCH INFORMATION

1606 Norma St., State College, PA 16801; (814) 234-2039

www.universitymennonite.org

Submissions for bulletin: bulletin@universitymennonite.org

Deadline for bulletin inclusion: Thursday end of day

Staff and volunteer leadership

Pastoral search process is underway! Hold our search committee in prayer.

Worship Coordinator/Church Administrator:

Ben Wideman, ben.wideman@gmail.com 215-859-0037

Elders:

Tim Groff, tgroff@centreconcrete.com 814-360-1086

Gloria Horst Rosenberger, ghr4870@gmail.com 814-571-5608

Ken Litwiller, kenlaura78@gmail.com 717-513-6849

Leah Witzig, witzig1@gmail.com 814-933-2503

Doug Miller, dam8@psu.edu 814-883-1127

Cong. co-chair: Joel Weidner, joelpsu82@outlook.com 814-777-4494

Cong. co-chair: Rick Stehouwer, rsc15@psu.edu 814-883-3503

Asst. chair: Ruth Kitchin Tillman, ruthkitchin@gmail.com 302-379-8912

Treasurer: Jim Rosenberger, jrosenberger@gmail.com 814-571-4419

Leadership team: umc-lt@googlegroups.com

Elders: umc-elders@googlegroups.com

University Mennonite Church's safe-child policy demonstrates our commitment to the physical safety and the spiritual growth of all our children and youth, ages birth to 18, as well as to our volunteers who care for them. The complete policy is posted in the lobby entrances and in the nursery room.

Our church maintains a Google Group email list to keep members informed about prayer requests and happenings in the community. Find out more and request to join at <https://universitymennonite.org/email-sharing-list/>

Our church has an online directory with photos and contact information. Find out more and request to join at: <https://universitymennonite.org/directory/>

Sign up to receive **UMC's midweek email newsletter** at: <https://mailchi.mp/universitymennonite/umc-midweek-newsletter>

Missed worship? Our church services are being recorded and published at <https://universitymennonite.org/worship/>

Church calendar <https://universitymennonite.org/calendar/>

Church Wi-Fi information – Connect to **umc**, password **mennosimons**



University
Mennonite
Church



*All generations serving God
and the world together*

March 1, 2026, 10 am



Obvious and Hidden

*Rooted in the love of Christ, we welcome each one here today—
we welcome your mind, body, and spirit; we welcome your faith and your
doubts; your joys and your sorrows. Wherever you come from,
whatever your age, and whomever you love...*

Whoever you are, you are welcome and affirmed here.

Worship Leader: Bethany Spicher Schonberg

Accompanist: Becky Kephart Song Leader: Ken Litwiller

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude – Hal Kunkel

Welcome & prayer – Bethany Spicher Schonberg

Call to worship

One: Welcome Lent. Welcome mystery.

All: Welcome actions that surprise.

One: Welcome answers that add more questions.

All: Welcome strangeness to our eyes.

One: Welcome awkward moments

All: That are holy moments too.

One: Welcome the words of Jesus.

All: Now go do as I do.

Peace Lamp

Singing –

I Want To Walk as a Child of the Light – STJ 95

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me – VT 306

Voices of our Congregation – Reflections with Carl Keener

Calling the children forward for children's time, *Come and See* - VT 282

Children's Time – Jess McCormick

Scripture – John 13:1-17, read in community

Sermon – Ben Wideman

Confession & Communion

Singing –

Teach Me Thy Truth – VT 776

Sharing time – Ken Litwiller

Glimpses of the Divine – *Walking on Sunshine* cover by Pomplamoose
Moments where we have seen glimpses of the divine in our lives

Announcements/birthdays/anniversaries/visitors

Benediction

Announcements

Coming up – Check out the church calendar for more details

<https://universitymennonite.org/calendar/>

Mar 1, after worship – update from Pastor Search Committee (details below)

Mar 2, noon – UMC Women's Lunch at Foxdale

Mar 2, 5 pm – Lights and Prayers for Peace

Mar 3, noon – Lectio Divina, Scripture & Study online

Mar 8, after worship – Christian Education for all ages

Pastor Search Update: Today during the second hour in the sanctuary, our pastor search committee is inviting everyone to learn about the progress of our pastoral search journey. As a reminder, our committee members are Jasiel Lira, Emily Pakhtigian, Sally Minnich, Doug McPherson, Shelley Davis, Jim Pierce, Marvin Hall, Leah Witzig, Gloria Horst Rosenberger.

Grace Lutheran Church (205 S. Garner Street, State College) invites you to the **13th annual ecumenical Lenten Musical Meditation** on Wednesday, March 25 at 7 PM. The free program, "I Believe: Songs of Faith, Hope, and Joy," focuses on the 1700th year of the Nicene Creed. It features Vivaldi's Credo with string orchestra; a jazz mass; Afro-Caribbean creed; and handbell choir. Dinner is available at 5; prelude at 6:40 (Nittany Brass). Free-will offerings defray costs. Call 814-238-2478 for info.

On Sundays, March 22 and 29, during the UMC Adult Education time following worship, **Prof. Lior Sternfeld, one of the leaders of the "New Minyan" that has been meeting in our building, will speak** about the history of his group and some of his experiences, both of being an Israeli Jew in State College and of his time in Israel during the Gaza war. Please plan to come, welcome Prof. Sternfeld, and hear a very interesting perspective. -- Ken Litwiller for the UMC Adult Education Committee.

Announcements (cont.)

We have some beautiful Lent resources that coordinate with our theme for the season - "Dwelling in Dissonance" (available in the church foyer and by email) - but for those who would like something a bit simpler, here are two other ideas:

1. **Breath Prayers:** "A Simple Lent for Everyone Who Doesn't Really Have Much Left in the Tank Right Now" - a breath prayer and scripture for each day of Lent from Sarah Bessey (available in the church foyer)
2. **Candles:** Choose a place in your home to display 6 tea lights or votives. Light six candles the first Sunday, five the second, and so on, until there is just one light remaining - and then relight all six on Easter. On each Sunday (or Saturday evening), read the scripture for that day.

Feb. 22 - Love and grief, glory and belief - John 11:1–44

Mar. 1 - Obvious and hidden - John 13:1–17

Mar. 8 - Standing up and standing back - John 18:12–27

Mar. 15 - Submission and power - John 18:28–40

Mar. 22 - Complicity and innocence - John 19:1–16a

Mar. 29 - Palm Sunday - John 19:16b–22; 12:12–27

Easter - Death and Resurrection - John 20:1–18

MC USA's 2026 Lent at Home Worship Guide invites households to journey through Lent with simple rituals, Scripture from John's Gospel and opportunities for reflection. This guide, titled "Dwelling in Dissonance," helps all ages hold grief and hope together, as we walk with Jesus toward resurrection. Available in English and Spanish. Download it here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/lent-at-home-2026>

And please be sure to mark your calendars for **Maundy Thursday, April 2** - everyone is invited to the Spicher-Schonberg farm for a simple meal, foot washing, and a campfire.

Blessings this Lent -

Bethany (and our Worship Committee)

Announcements (cont.)

The State College Food Bank is looking for condiments, especially mayonnaise and salad dressings. Please consider donating these or any non-perishable food items during March. Cash is welcome as well.

Children in UMC worship – Children through fifth grade are invited to come to the front of the sanctuary for children's time. After children's time, the nursery is available for children ages four and under. (Parents, please check to see if the nursery is staffed; if not, please stay with your child.) Children of all ages are also welcome to remain in the sanctuary for the service or to gather at the table in the back for quiet activities using the materials provided.

Sunday school at UMC this year will include a mix of intergenerational gatherings and traditional age-divided class. On first Sundays, communion is extended into the foyer after the service with snacks and discussion questions for all - an opportunity for conversation with a variety of ages. On second, fourth and fifth Sundays, adults meet in the sanctuary, and there are classes for children through middle school age. On third Sundays, all are invited to the basement for an intergenerational class led by Carmen Groff. Sunday school will continue through the end of May and begin again in September.

Interfaith Human Services (IHS) would like to inform you that our Executive Director of six years, Curt Knouse has resigned his position at IHS to pursue his passion for missionary work. The staff and Board of Directors wish Curt all the best in his new position. We recognize that times of transition can cause uncertainty, but they also create opportunities. We are excited to explore new possibilities for IHS and to determine what type of leadership positions and agency structure will carry IHS into the future. Our programs and the people we serve remain our top priority.

If you have questions, please contact BJ Weaver, Senior Case Manager, or Sue Forster, Development Coordinator, at 814-234-7731.

Mennonite Mission Network would like to thank University Mennonite Church for the generous gift of \$660.00. Your generosity has enabled us to partner with 116 organizations and churches worldwide and have 74 workers and service program participants serving in 45 countries. We are thankful for your unwavering dedication to this shared mission of sharing God's love across the street and around the world. May God's light continue to shine through your church as a witness in your community and beyond.

Announcements (cont.)

New to UMC? Considering joining our email sharing list and online directory **Directory** - <https://universitymennonite.org/directory/>
Sharing List - <https://universitymennonite.org/email-sharing-list/>

Your offerings support UMC – Remember to support UMC with your financial gifts. Offering baskets are by the doors to the sanctuary or you can make your offering the following ways.

- Mail a check to our treasurer, 1606 Norma Street, State College PA, 16801
- Donate on the church website at <http://www.universitymennonite.org/donate>
- Set up an automatic payment with your bank (bill pay service)
- Use a service like Zelle <https://www.zellepay.com/>

Mennonite Church USA News


This Women’s History Month, journey through the stories of Mennonite women who have shaped our faith — from the first women’s mission groups and early educators to today’s pastors, peacebuilders and organizational leaders. Explore MC USA’s Mennonite Women’s History Timeline and be inspired by their courage, leadership and enduring witness: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/mennonite-womens-history-timeline/>

Do you know someone who embodies Christ-centered peacemaking in your community? Mennonite Church USA is seeking nominations for a Legacy Peacemaker, who has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to peace and justice, and a Young Peacemaker, who is beginning to make a meaningful impact, for its 2026 Bring the Peace awards. The deadline for nominations is March 27 and may be submitted via this online form: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/btp-nomination>

Beginning March 1, 2026, Mennonite Church USA is implementing an enhanced screening protocol as part of its Prevention and Accountability Resource initiative. MC USA’s Ministerial Leadership Information process now includes more comprehensive background checks designed to protect congregations and ensure qualified, trustworthy leadership. Read more here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/new-screening-protocol/>

Michael Danner and Rachel Ringenberg Miller, **hosts of Mennonite Church USA’s “The Competent Pastor” podcast**, reflect on five key lessons from Season 1, as they launch Season 2 for pastors and congregational leaders. Read their MennoSnapshots blog here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/what-makes-a-competent-pastor/>

Announcements (cont.)




Join the Justice Committee to learn the power and possibilities for kids to do social justice work!

- **Why and how we support our kids in doing social justice work**
- **Protest etiquette**
- **Tips, tricks, and know-how to help keep yourself, your kids, and your community safe while protesting**

HOW TO RAISE A GOOD CITIZEN WORKSHOP

SUNDAY MARCH 1

UUFCC, ROOM 6
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM



We hope that by attending this workshop you will get to see how everyone, no matter their age, can truly make a difference when it comes to lifting up the voices of those oppressed. We’ll also have resources available on how to talk with your kids about how to navigate fear and books to learn!

PARENT/CAREGIVER WORKSHOP

Sponsored by the UUFCC Justice Committee
Contact Ashley Hamlin for more information: ahamlin@uufcc.com